THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a cornea of an eye so as to effect a refractive correction of the eye, the method comprising the steps of:

a) delivering a corneal ablating laser beam to an eye:

b) moving the laser beam in a pattern about the eye; and

c) redirecting the laser beam to compensate for eye movement.

2. A method of treating a cornea of an eye to effect a refractive correction of the eye, the method comprising the steps of:

a. delivering a corneal ablating laser beam to an eye;

b. moving the laser beam in a pattern about the eye along an original optical beam path; and

c. shifting the original beam path in accordance with a specific scanning pattern to create a resulting beam path that is parallel to the original beam path.

3. A method of treating a cornea of an eye to effect a refractive correction of the eye, the method comprising the steps of:

a. delivering a corneal ablating laser beam to an eye in a plurality of pulses, the plurality of pulses creating a plurality of plumes; and

b. sequencing the plurality of pulses so that a plume associated with a specific pulse does not substantially interfere with a pulse subsequent to the specific pulse.

4. A method of treating a cornea of an eye to effect a refractive correction of the eye, the method comprising the steps of:

a. delivering a corneal ablating laser beam to an eye in a series of pulses, the series of pulses creating a series of plumes; and

b. spacing each pulse in the series of pulses a distance sufficient so that a plume associated with a previous pulse does not substantially interfere with a pulse subsequent to the previous pulse.